

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An air duct system for a combined refrigerator of the forced air circulation type, comprising a freezing compartment-(1) and a refrigerating compartment-(2), which are superposed and separated by an intermediate wall-(3), further having an air cooling compartment-(4) lodging an evaporator-(5) and a fan-(6) and presenting at least one circulated air inlet-(4a) and at least one refrigerated air outlet-(4b) directed to the freezing compartment-(1) and to the refrigerating compartment (2), characterized in that it comprises a body-(10) mounted into the interior of the intermediate wall-(3) and defining a rear chamber-(11) opened to the circulated air inlet (4a); a transversal through-duct-(12) centrally provided in front of the rear chamber-(11) and having an end maintained in fluid communication with the refrigerated air outlet (4b), and an opposite end opened to the inside of the refrigerating compartment-(2); at least one first and one second return duct-(13, 14) each presenting a rear end-(13b, 14b) opened to the rear chamber-(11) and a front end-(13a, 14a) opened to the interior of the freezing compartment-(1) and of the refrigerating compartment-(2), respectively, the rear ends-(13b, 14b) of the first and the second return ducts-(13, 14) being positioned on opposite sides of the transversal through-duct (12).

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a pair of first return ducts-(13) disposed along respective opposite lateral regions of the body-(10) and having a rear end-(13b) opened to the rear chamber (11) and

a front end-(13a) opened to the inside of one of the freezing compartment-(1) and the refrigerating compartment-(2); and a second return duct-(14) centrally disposed between the pair of first return ducts-(13) and having a front end-(14a) opened to the inside of the other of said freezing compartment-(1) and refrigerating compartment-(2), and a rear end (14b)-bifurcated around the transversal through-duct (12)-and opened to the rear chamber (11)-between the rear ends (13b)-of the pair of first return ducts-(13).

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, characterized in that the front ends (13a)-of the first return ducts (13)-are opened to one of the front lower region of the freezing compartment (1)-and the front upper region of the refrigerating compartment-(2), the front end (14a)-of the second return duct (14)-being opened to the other of said regions.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, characterized in that the front ends (13a)-of the first return ducts (13)-are opened to a face of the body (10) turned to one of the freezing compartment (1)-and the refrigerating compartment (2)-with which the first return ducts (13)-are maintained in fluid communication.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 2, characterized in that the rear chamber (11)-presents a width corresponding to the width of the circulated air inlet (14a)-in the air cooling compartment-(4).

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5, characterized in that the rear chamber ~~(11)~~ presents a width substantially equal to the width of the body ~~(10)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5, characterized in that the width of the circulated air inlet ~~(4a)~~ is substantially equal to the width of the evaporator ~~(5)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, characterized in that the first return ducts ~~(13)~~ and the second return duct ~~(14)~~ are substantially coplanar and parallel to each other.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, characterized in that the refrigerated air outlet ~~(4b)~~ of the air cooling compartment ~~(4)~~ is centrally defined, aligned with the fan ~~(6)~~ and opened to the interior of a plenum ~~(7)~~, which is positioned behind the freezing compartment ~~(1)~~ and separated therefrom by a wall ~~(8)~~ provided with openings ~~(9)~~ for the supply of refrigerated air to the freezing compartment ~~(1)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, characterized in that the transversal through-duct ~~(12)~~ has an end opened to the central lower region of the plenum ~~(7)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 10, characterized in that the transversal through-duct ~~(12)~~ presents a rectilinear development between the central region of plenum ~~(7)~~ and the refrigerating compartment ~~(2)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(10)~~ comprises a lower half ~~(10a)~~ and an upper half ~~(10b)~~, which are designed to be fitted into each other, and each defining a respective half of the cross section of the first return ducts ~~(13)~~ and of the second return duct ~~(14)~~, and a respective longitudinal extension of the transversal through-duct ~~(12)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 12, characterized in that the lower half (10a) of the body (10) defines the rear chamber (11) in practically the whole extension thereof.